

COUNTRY East Germany 25X1 Approved For Release 2003/08/28 : CIA-RDP80-00810A000200360006-4 25X1

TOPIC Military Information from the Letzling Heath Training Area

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT end of October to 28 November 1952

25X1 DATE OBTAINED PREPARED 16 January 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS Documents forwarded to Washington

25X1

1. Summer camps in the area of the Letzling Heath include one camp each near Jaevenitz, Planken, Bittkau and Kolbitz and two camps near Born. The camps are occupied by troops from April until October. During the winter, the camps house administrative units and small guard details. The quarters consist mostly of small temporary barracks including some brick buildings. Electric power and water connections are available. The firing range at Planken, formerly Hillersleben, extends from Staats as far as Planken via Salchau and is divided by kilometer markers 1 through 30. A tank firing range is located near kilometer marker 7. Wooden tank dummies were used as movable targets. The former mess buildings on the firing range were used as quarters. No large permanent fuel depots were determined. During the summer training, only several barrel dumps were observed. At the end of October, the tank unit in the camp near Born allegedly departed for the Panzer Kaserne in Burg. Zamzonov (fnu) was again identified as supply officer of the unit. The artillery unit in the so-called large camp near Born allegedly departed for the Margarethenhof, Herrenkrug, in Magdeburg. Supply officer Cheryonovski (fnu) was no longer observed with the unit. His assistant Zolotukhin (fnu) was promoted to the rank of senior lieutenant and is still with the unit. The firing range komendatura consisting of Colonel Boshko (fnu) as commandant and supply officer Colonel Popov (fnu), [redacted] has remained the same since August. A radio station of 4 masts and radio truck was still near the forest administration at the beginning of November.

2. On 12 November, the camp in the woods near Jaevenitz was occupied only by a guard detail of about 10 soldiers. Windows and doors were boarded.¹ The barracks installation south of Staats was occupied to capacity on 12 November. No training activity was noticed. All windows were lighted at dusk. Trucks [redacted] were seen in traffic from and to the barracks installation.²
3. On 12 November, the barracks installation south of Staats was occupied to capacity by about 800 troops. No training activity was noticed. Several new temporary barracks, the use of which could not be determined, were built in the yard of the installation. Trucks [redacted] were identified in the billeting area. On 12 November, the camp south of Jaevenitz quartered a guard detail of 50 to 80 soldiers. The circular tents previously observed had been taken down. Six large wooden buildings with 12 windows each were counted; however, source believed that more low wooden buildings were established farther to the south. A truck was observed in the camp.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

349

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1C Soviet documents found in a low wooden building boarded up and located near the road barrier along the Kolbitz-Letzlingen road on 25 October included an envelope addressed to a soldier, postmarked 12 September 1952, examined by Censorship Office [] mailed in Irkutsk; an envelope addressed to a soldier, postmarked 4 October 1952, examined by Censorship Office

25X1C [] stamped by main AFO, mailed in the Kursk Oblast; and a note stating that Alpech was going home on 17 September 1952.³ A tank parking lot for 80 to 100 tanks or armored vehicles was determined along a wood

25X1A path in this area. Numerous tent sites or bivouacking places were observed east of the Muhlwinkel railroad station, on either side of the road. These places were only recently vacated.¹ Soviet documents found there included:

25X1A

25X1C

25X1X

4. Prior to 28 November, the wood camp southeast of Jaevenitz was occupied only by a guard detail. The tents had been taken down. The wood structures for the tents remained intact. On 20 November, at 5 p.m., 27 officers with baggage including a captain went from the Jaevenitz railroad station toward Stendal. On 28 November, 1 officer and 30 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and with baggage also went toward Stendal.

1. [] Comment. On the basis of information received during the summer 1952, the mentioned camps are believed to have been occupied as follows:

25X1A Jaevenitz: elements of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div.

Planken: which is probably identical with Huetten, elements of the 7th Gds Tank Div.

Born: elements of the 19th Gds Mecz Div and headquarters units of the Third Shock Army. It is possible, that the camp quartered other units of the 7th Gds Tank Div, which made source assume that two camps existed near Born. However, this conclusion cannot be confirmed.

Colbitz: elements of the 10th Gds Tank Div.

Pittkau: all engineer units of the Third Shock Army.

25X1X The ranks and positions of officers as indicated in paragraph 1 were previously reported [] The information confirms the 136th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army in Burg. The unit departing for the Herrenkrug Kaserne, Magdeburg, cannot be identified; it is believed to belong to the 19th Gds Mecz Div. The units are presumably artillery elements of a mechanized and/or tank regiment of the division. The bivouacking and tent sites east of the Muhlwinkel railroad station were probably used by units which were loaded in Muhlwinkel upon completion of

25X1A the Third Shock Army fall maneuvers.

2. [] Comment. The barracks installation in Staats which appeared to be occupied to capacity is believed to be occupied by the 16th Gds Tank SP Regt of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div.

25X1A []

25X1A []

SECRET